

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (currently amended) An ink fountain for a printing machine, having a base with a blade holder (1; 20), in which said blade holder comprises a number of adjacent sectors (2; 22) which can be moved by adjusting means [[(13)]] in order to vary the distance between said sectors and the circumference of an ink fountain roller, said ink fountain additionally comprising a blade (11; 21) which is interposed between said sectors (2; 22) and the circumference of the ink fountain roller and which has a continuous edge intended to maintain a defined ink thickness on the ink fountain roller, the ink thickness being adjusted by said continuous edge of the blade (11; 21) and defined by the position of said sectors, which is transmitted to said blade, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said blade (11; 21) rests directly on said sectors (2; 22) and is held fixedly with respect to said blade holder (1; 20).

2. (currently amended) The ink fountain as claimed in claim 1, in which the blade (11; 21) ~~comprises~~ includes a ceramic deposit to reinforce said edge of the blade.

3. (currently amended) The ink fountain as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the blade (11; 21) is a metal blade.

4. (currently amended) The ink fountain as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, in which the blade (11; 21) is screwed into the blade holder (1; 20).

5. (currently amended) The ink fountain as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, in which the blade is held on the blade holder by a fastening piece [[(26)]].

6. (currently amended) The ink fountain as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, in which the sectors [[(2)]] are moved by deformation.

7. (currently amended) The ink fountain as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, in which the sectors [[(22)]] are moved by rotation.

8. (currently amended) The ink fountain as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~  
claim 1, in which a deformable plastic is deposited between the sectors (2; 22) to improve the  
sealing between them.